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January 13, 1989

**UM'S PROVOST NAMED STATE'S DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR ACADEMICS**

**MISSOULA --**

University of Montana Provost Donald E. Habbe has been named acting deputy commissioner for academic affairs for the Montana University System, Carrol Krause, commissioner of higher education, announced today. Habbe, who has been provost since June 1987 and vice president for academic affairs at UM for 12 years, replaces Robert Albrecht, who resigned in December to work for the University of Colorado System in Boulder. Habbe will assume his new duties early next month and is expected to be in Helena for about three months until a permanent replacement is named.

In his new post, Habbe will be dealing with statewide academic issues, such as the implementation of admission and college preparatory standards, and will report directly to the commissioner.

Donald S. Spencer, assistant provost, associate dean of the Graduate School and an associate professor of history at UM, will replace Habbe for the interim. Both appointments are subject to the approval of the Board of Regents.

"It's going to make life difficult here," James V. Koch, president of the University of Montana, said, commenting on the appointment. "It's for the greater good of the University System, and it reflects the confidence of the commissioner in Dr. Habbe."

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